GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
LAND DISPUTE AT INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Assam losing land to Bangladesh" reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated October 28, 2007.

(b) if so, whether lack of proper planning has resulted in loosing out vast stretches of land, as the fence was built deeper into the Indian Territory, than stipulated 150 metres from zero line separating the two countries; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) to (c): Normally, fencing is erected at a distance of 150 yards from the international border. However, because of the topographical reasons, in some places in Assam, the fencing was erected at a distance of more than 150 yards (500 mtrs -1.5 Kms) from the International Border. However, no incident of loss of fertile land to Bangladesh has taken place. The land owners are cultivating their land falling ahead of the fencing. To facilitate the movement of the villagers, gates at suitable places have been provided and the timings for opening of these gates have been fixed in consultation with the local population. Each gate is manned by a BSF sentry and can be opened at any time during emergency.